Document 1

Filed 02/27/2008.

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Case 3:08-cv-00367<u>-</u>WMC

TO THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN

DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, PLAINTIFF PATRICIA QUIROZ AND HER

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ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, based on the following allegations, Defendant Thrifty Payless, Inc. dba "Rite Aid" (erroneously sued herein as "Rite Aid Corporation") (hereinafter, "Rite Aid") hereby removes the state court action described below.

1. On January 24, 2008, an action was commenced in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of San Diego, entitled

"PATRICIA QUIROZ, an individual v. RITE AID CORPORATION, an unknown

entity and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive," Case Number 37-2008-00050640-CU-

WT-NC. The Complaint alleges causes of action for: (1) Discrimination in

Violation of Federal Statutes and California Government Code Section 12940, et

seq. and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; 42 U.S.C. Sections 12101-

12213; (2) Discrimination and Retaliation in Violation of Government Code

Section 12940, et seq. and the Age Discrimination and Employment Act; (3)

Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress; and (4) Negligent Infliction of

Emotional Distress. A true and correct copy of the Complaint, Summons, Notice of

Case Assignment, ADR Information Package, and Certificate of Service are

attached hereto as Exhibit "A." Rite Aid is informed and believes that this

constitutes all process, pleadings and orders received by it in this action.

2. Rite Aid has not been properly served in this action. Plaintiff sent the Complaint and Summons to "Rite Aid Corporation" via UPS overnight delivery service on January 31, 2008, purporting to have served it. That does not constitute valid service under the California Code of Civil Procedure. However, 28869 1 - 1 -

through service or otherwise, of a copy of the initial pleading.")

3.

Complaint, ¶¶ 34, 37-40.

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5.

This action is a civil action in which this Court has original

even assuming that Plaintiff's conduct constituted valid service, this removal is

timely. See 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b) ("The notice of removal of a civil action or

proceeding shall be filed within thirty days after the receipt by the defendant,

jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and is one which may be removed to his court

by Rite Aid pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b) and (c), in that it arises under federal

12213) and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (29 U.S.C. § 621 et seq.).

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; 42 U.S.C. Sections 12101-12213." See

Complaint, ¶¶ 25-28. Plaintiff's second cause of action is for "Discrimination and

Retaliation in Violation of ... the Age Discrimination and Employment Act." See

remaining state law claims in the Complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a), as they

share a common nucleus of operative facts with Plaintiff's federal claims and/or

to the parties require that all of Plaintiff's claims be litigated together in a single

form the basis of those federal claims. Convenience, judicial economy, and fairness

forum. 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a); United Mine Workers v. Gibbs, 383 U.S. 715, 725-26

This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over any and all

Rite Aid filed its Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint in the

statutes, specifically, the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-

Plaintiff's first cause of action is for "Discrimination in Violation of ... [the]

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(1966).

Superior Court for the County of San Diego, State of California. A true and correct

copy of Rite Aid's Answer is attached hereto as Exhibit "B."

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

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Case 3:08-cv-00367<u>-W</u>MC

FOR COURT USE UNLY

(SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE)

SUM-100

# SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): Rite Aid Corporation

(20)CLERK-SUPERIOR COURT SAN DIEGO COUNTY. CA

And DOES 1-50
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

Patricia Quiroz

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee walver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratultos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.

The name and address of the court is:	•	CASE NUMBER	0050640-CU-WT-NC
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):		(Número del Gaso):2000-0	0030040-CO-VV 1-NC
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA			
325 S. Melrose			
325 S. Melrose			•
Vista, CA 92083			•
North County Division			
The name, address, and telephone number of plain	ntiff's attorney, or plaintiff without	an attorney, is:	
(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono de	el abogado del demandante, o de	el demandante que no tiene	abogado, es):
Susan Curran SBN227886		(760) 634-1229 (	(760) 634-0729
Curran & Curran Law	,		•
843 Second Street			
Encinitas, CA 92024	•	•	
	Clerk, by	M Dolon	, Deputy
DATE: (Fecha) JAN 2 4 2008	(Secretario)	# Magnification of the second	(Adjunto)
(For proof of service of this summons, use Proof of	Service of Summons (form POS	:-010).)	•
(Para prueba de entrega de esta citatión use el fort			
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NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served **ISEALI** 1. as an individual defendant. as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify): 3. X on behalf of (specify): RITE AID CORPORATION CCP 416.60 (minor) under: X CCP 416.10 (corporation) CCP 416.70 (conservatee) CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation) CCP 416.90 (authorized person) CCP 416.40 (association or partnership) other (specify):

Form Adopted for Mandatory Use Judicial Council of California SUM-100 [Rev. January 1, 2004] X by personal delivery on (date): Solutions Page 1 of 1

$I_{\infty} \rightarrow I_{\infty}$		ase 3:08-cv-00367-VVIIC Document 1 Filed 02/27/2008 Page 4 of 45
		NORTH COUNTY PIVISION
	1	08 JAN 24 AM 11: 42 CURRAN & CURRAN LAW
·	2	SUSAN CURRAN, ESQ. State Bar Association No. 227886  CLERK-SUPERIOR COURT SAN DIFFOR COUNTY CA
	3	843 Second Street, Ste. A Encinitas, CA 92024 Telephone: (760) 634-1229
	4	Facsimile: (760) 634-0729
	5	Attorneys for Plaintiff
	6	
· · ·	7	
	8	SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO COUNTY, NORTH COUNTY BRANCH
	9	
	10	PATRICIA QUIROZ, an individual ) CASE NO.37-2008-00050640-CU-WT-NC
	11	Plaintiff, ) COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES
	12	$\mathbf{v}$ .
	13	) RITE AID CORPORATION, an unknown )
	14	entity and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,
	- 15	Defendants.
,	16	
	17	Plaintiff PATRICIA QUIROZ [hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff/Ms. QUIROZ"]; brings
	18	this Complaint against Defendant RITE AID CORPORATION, an unknown entity [hereinafter
•	19	referred to as "Defendant/RITE AID"] and DOES 1 through 50 as follows:
	20	PARTIES AND VENUE
	21	1. Plaintiff is ignorant of the true names and capacities of Defendants sued herein as DOES
	22	1 through 50, inclusive, and therefore sues these Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will
· ·	23	amend this complaint to allege the true names and capacities of DOES 1 through 50, at such time
	24	such information is ascertained by Plaintiff.
	25	2. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that at all times relevant herein, each
	26	of the fictitiously named DOE Defendants are proximately responsible, either through negligence,
	27	intentional misconduct, or contractually, for Plaintiff's injuries herein, and that each such fictitious
	28	Defendant acted as the agent of each of the other Defendants in this action.
		OUIDOS V PITE AID COMPLAINT

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- 3. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant RITE AID is, and at all times relevant herein was, an unknown business entity engaged in business in the County of San Diego, California.
- 4. The acts and omissions alleged to have occurred herein were performed by Defendant RITE AID and/or its management level employees, and said acts were authorized or ratified by RITE AID and/or its upper level managerial employees, so as to render said business liable for the acts and omissions alleged herein.
- 5. At all times mentioned herein, each and every Defendant was the agent and employee of each and every other Defendant and in doing the things alleged was acting within the course and scope of such agency and employment, and in doing the acts herein alleged was acting with the consent, permission, and authorization of each of the remaining Defendants. All actions of each Defendant herein alleged were ratified and approved by the officers or managing agents of every other Defendant.

# **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 6. Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ is a 52 year old female, hired by RITE AID in or about 1998 as a salesperson for RITE AID in Del Mar, California. Prior to working for RITE AID, Ms. QUIROZ was employed by Payless Corporation which was affiliated with RITE AID. Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ earned approximately \$25,000 per year.
- 7. Throughout Ms. QUIROZ's employment with Defendant RITE AID, Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ's job duties and responsibilities were consistently increased with additional pay. Due to Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ's organizational skills, considerable knowledge, and her aptitude for dealing with customers so well, Defendant RITE AID would have Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ train and oversee new hires throughout the tenure of her employment.
- 8. During Plaintiff's 9 years with Defendant RITE AID, Ms. QUIROZ continued to perform in an outstanding and favorable manner. Specifically, throughout the entire 9 year tenure of Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ's employment at RITE AID, Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ *never* received an unsatisfactory performance evaluation nor any other comment regarding poor work performance. To the contrary, throughout her 9 year career with RITE AID, Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ continuously received positive

ratings on her reviews with Defendant RITE AID.

- 9. Notwithstanding, Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ's 9 years of exemplary performance and commendations from the individuals who worked with and supervised her, Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ is informed and believes and thereupon alleges Defendant RITE AID has embarked on a decided course of action to eliminate Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ from the employ of RITE AID because Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ was an "older" salesperson who was on an approved medical leave of absence and took advantage of her medical leave by terminating her without even the courtesy of informing her.
- 10. Unfortunately, administrators of RITE AID embarked on a decided course of action to discriminate, retaliate, harass, and intimidate Plaintiff based upon her advanced and advancing age as well as her physical disability. Such examples are stated seriatim, in summary fashion and are not intended to be an exhaustive list.
  - a. For approximately 9 years, Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ was employed by RITE AID as a salesperson at the Del Mar California store. Customers loved Ms. QUIROZ; they gave her holiday gifts, they had coffee together and she became close friends with some;
  - b. Prior to working for RITE AID, Ms. QUIROZ was employed by Pay Less who owned the RITE AID company, for 11 years;
  - c. Ms. QUIROZ never had any adverse employment action taken against her and had a good relationship with her supervisor Kim Garcia. Her yearly evaluations were always positive and she often received "smiley faces," RITE AID's way of giving positive feedback to employees on a weekly basis;
  - d. Plaintiff was recently offered a key position by her direct supervisor, Kim Garcia. This position entailed more responsibility and Plaintiff was told she would have a few days to think about accepting it. However, prior to accepting this offer, Plaintiff was informed about a day or so later the position was offered to another employee who was a young male in his 20's. Ms. Garcia asked Plaintiff if she was upset by this decision;
  - e. On or about November 12, 2006 Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ was leaving the RITE AID

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store she was employed at after her shift, when she fell in the parking	lot. Plaintiff
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suffered from torn tendons, torn ligaments and a ruptured kneecap;	

- f. The next day, November 12, 2006, Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ went to work for her normal shift at 5:00 a.m. and reported her accident to Ms. Garcia. Plaintiff continued her normal shifts (Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday 5:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.) while she sought medical treatment for her injuries through April 2006;
- g. Plaintiff was prescribed a boot to be worn at all times. Plaintiff's injuries interfered with her ability to walk, bend and stand. Defendant RITE AID offered no reasonable accommodations to Ms. QUIROZ;
- h. Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ remained under her physicians' care and kept RITE AID, through her supervisor Kim Garcia, apprized of her condition. Prior to April 9, 2007, Plaintiff informed RITE AID, through Kim Garcia, that she was advised by her physician to a take a medical leave of absence from RITE AID. Kim Garcia provided Plaintiff with a handwritten note confirming Plaintiff's approved medical leave of absence beginning April 9, 2007, hereby attached as Exhibit "1" and incorporated by reference herein;
- i. Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ was also provided with a Leave of Absence packet by RITE AID which included an Application, Disability Claim Form, Certification of Health Care Provider provided to her by RITE AID. The Application was signed by a store manager (SYSM ID "FEMJR6") on April 14, 2007. Ms. QUIROZ faxed the packet of information to RITE AID's Benefits Department in Harrisburg Pa., called to confirm the receipt thereof and received the facsimile report verifying receipt;
- h. Due to the extent of her injuries, Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ was directed by her physicians to continue her medical leave of absence past the expected date of return to work which was May 2007. In addition, she was advised that surgery was necessary. Ms. QUIROZ underwent said surgery on or about July 26, 2007. RITE AID was properly informed and was provided the requisite forms from Ms. QUIROZ' health care providers;

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i. On or about July 12, 2007 and while on her properly noticed medical leave of
absence, Ms. QUIROZ was shopping in a RITE AID store in Encinitas and was
informed her employee discount card was no longer operative. When Ms. QUIROZ
called her direct supervisor, Kim Garcia, Ms. Garcia claimed to not know why the
card was deactivated. Approximately two days later, on Sunday July 15, 2007, Ms.
Garcia called Ms. QUIROZ at her home and informed her she had been terminated
by RITE AID. She claimed to not know why;

- j. At no time did RITE AID make any effort to contact Ms. QUIROZ and let her know she was terminated or the reason she was terminated;
- k. Ms. QUIROZ is now informed and believes that the RITE AID store she previously worked at for 9 years replaced her position with a 23 year old woman who currently works Ms. QUIROZ' hours and shifts.
- 11. After some follow up with the UFCW LOCAL 135 Union, Ms. QUIROZ was informed by Odette Kaufman in the Grievance Department that Ms. QUIROZ was likely the victim of a wrongful termination and unfortunately "no one cared at RITE AID."
- 12. In a letter dated November 8, 2007, Ms. QUIROZ, through her counsel, advised RITE AID's legal department that she was represented by counsel and requested that all further communications be directed to counsel.
- 13. In response, Ms. QUIROZ received a letter dated November 30, 2007 from Daniel E. Pina, RITE AID's Regional Human Resources Manager in San Diego. The letter stated that Ms. QUIROZ's termination was due to her Leave of Absence paperwork not being approved because of missing information. He further informed her that if he did not hear from her within 14 days, he would consider her a voluntary quit.
- 14. Ms. QUIROZ, through counsel, addressed Mr. Pina's pretextural defense/reply in a letter dated December 7, 2008. Defendant RITE AID, through its' employee Mr. Pina, was again directed to communicate only with Ms. QUIROZ's counsel.
- 15. On December 11, 2008 at approximately 1:40 p.m. after receiving these notices and in complete disregard of them, Defendant RITE AID, by and through Mr. Pina, called Ms. QUIROZ

on her phone and spoke with a rude, condescending, offensive and aggressive tone. He told he	r she
was "preposterous," and asked her "what did she think she was doing?"	

- 16. RITE AID's wrongful conduct has caused, and undoubtedly will continue to cause, severe economic and emotional damages. RITE AID's conduct has also resulted in stress, tension and panic attacks, causing her further emotional distress and discomfort.
- 17. As detailed hereinabove, Plaintiff is informed and believes she was harassed, intimidated, discriminated and retaliated against by Defendant RITE AID in an effort to eliminate Plaintiff as an employee at RITE AID based primarily upon, among other things, Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ's age, 52, and her physical disability.
- 18. Plaintiff is further informed and believes that Defendant RITE AID and/or its employees conspired to pretextually and wrongfully terminate Plaintiff by eliminating Plaintiff because Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ was 52 years old; intentionally setting Plaintiff up and lying to Plaintiff concerning the plan and scheme to eliminate Plaintiff's employment; eliminating and/or taking away Plaintiff's responsibilities; and discriminatorily hiring significantly younger salespersons to take Plaintiff's responsibilities.
- 19. At all times relevant herein, Plaintiff conducted herself in accordance with all of the policies and procedures of RITE AID and performed her employment duties in a proper fashion.
- 20. As a direct and proximate result of the misconduct alleged above, Plaintiff has/will suffer lost income and benefits in an amount not less than \$75,000.00, all in an amount to be shown according to proof. Plaintiff claims such amount as damages together with prejudgment interest pursuant to Civil Code §3287 and/or any other provision of law providing for prejudgment interest.
- 21. As a direct and proximate cause of the wrongful activities alleged above, Plaintiff has suffered emotional distress directly associated with having to endure discrimination based upon Plaintiff's age; discriminatory hostile and/or unfair work environment and/or harassment; retaliation and unfairness directed towards Plaintiff; and/or unjust failure to promote; and/or unjust proposed/actual termination as a result of age discrimination by RITE AID. By this complaint, Plaintiff does not waive any privacy rights she may have under *Cal. Const.*, Art. I, § 1; *Evid. Code* § 994; *Evid. Code* § 1014; *Vinson v. Superior Court* 43 Cal. 3d 833, 840, 9 Cal. Rptr. 292, 297.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Discrimination in Violation of Federal Statutes and Government Code, §12940, et seq. and Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990; 42 USC §§12101-12213)

- 22. Plaintiff refers to and incorporates by reference herein each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 21 above.
- 23. The harassment, intimidation, discrimination and retaliation against Plaintiff by Defendants was decided upon by Defendants due to, among other things, Plaintiff's physical disability. This decision was made by Defendants RITE AID and Does 1-50.
- 24. Defendant RITE AID had actual knowledge of the misconduct as well as the pervasive, harassing, intimidating, discriminatory and retaliatory environment in which Plaintiff was forced to work. Furthermore, Defendant RITE AID authorized and ratified the acts of Plaintiff's supervisors and DOES 1 through 50.
- 25. The conduct of Defendants constituted discrimination based on a physical disability under *Government Code* §12940, 12941, et seq. and *Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990*; 42 USC §§12101-12213.
- 26. At all times relevant herein, Defendant RITE AID was an employer within the definition of Government Code §12926(c) and, as such, barred from discriminating in employment decisions on the basis of physical disability under Government Code §§12940, 12941, et seq. and Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990; 42 USC §§12101-12213.
- 27. Defendant RITE AID's acts as alleged herein were in violation of public policy. The public policy which was violated by Defendant RITE AID is the public policy of the United States and the State of California which prohibits an employer from harassing, intimidating, discriminating or retaliating against its employees for, among other things, an employee's physical disability. Said acts constitute employment practices forbidden pursuant to *Government Code*, §12940 et seq. and *Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990*; 42 USC §§12101-12213. Furthermore, it is illegal for an employer to fail to take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent discrimination and harassment from occurring. *Government Code*, §12940 (h)(i).
- 28. Defendant RITE AID violated this public policy by harassing, intimidating, discriminating and retaliating against Plaintiff for Plaintiff's physical disability. Said acts constitute

forbidden employment practices pursuant to Government Code, §12940 et seq. and Americans With
Disabilities Act of 1990; 42 USC §§12101-12213. All of the foregoing are in violation of the public
policy of this State, so as to entitle Plaintiff to sue for the injuries and damages suffered by her as
a result thereof.

29. As a proximate result of Defendants' bad faith harassment, intimidation, discrimination and retaliation against Plaintiff in violation of statutorily expressed public policy, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer the injuries and damages alleged above.

### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Discrimination And Retaliation in Violation of Government Code §12940, et seq. and the Age Discrimination and Employment Act)

- 30. Plaintiff refers to and incorporates by reference herein each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 21 above.
- 31. The acts of Defendants alleged above constitute a violation of Plaintiff's California Constitutional rights under Article 1, §8, entitling Plaintiff to bring an action for damages under Government Code §12940.
- 32. As a direct and proximate result of the unconstitutional acts of Defendant RITE AID alleged above, Plaintiff has suffered the injuries and damages alleged above.
- 33. The acts of Defendant RITE AID above, constitute a disparate and hostile work environment with respect to age, wherein a reasonable person would find the work environment disparate and hostile and quid pro quo discriminatory.
- 34. As decided by the US Supreme Court, in Smith v. City of Jackson, Case No. 03-1160 the Court has adopted a pro worker interpretation of Federal law and ruled employees can prevail in age discrimination cases merely by showing a policy has a discriminatory effect on older workers regardless of the employer's motivation. This Court is empowered to, and should exercise its equitable powers, enjoining Defendant's illegal activities.
- 35. The harassment, intimidation, discrimination and retaliation against Plaintiff by Defendants was decided upon by Defendants substantially due to Plaintiff's age. This decision was made by Defendant RITE AID and Does 1-50.

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36. Defendant RITE AID had actual knowledge of the pervasive, harassing, intimidating, discriminatory and retaliatory work environment Plaintiff was forced to work in. Furthermore, Defendant RITE AID maliciously and intentionally authorized and ratified the acts of supervisors and other managerial personnel in discriminating against Plaintiff based upon her age.

37. The conduct of Defendants constituted discrimination based on age under Government Code §12940, 12941, et seq. and further, Defendant RITE AID is liable pursuant to the Age Discrimination and Employment Act.

38. At all times relevant herein, Defendant RITE AID was an employer within the definition of Government Code §12926(c) and, as such, barred from discriminating in employment decisions on the basis of age under Government Code §12940, 12941, et seq. and pursuant to the Age Discrimination and Employment Act.

39. Defendant RITE AID's acts as alleged herein were in violation of public policy. The public policy which was violated by Defendant RITE AID is the public policy of the United States and the State of California which prohibits an employer from harassing, retaliating or discriminating against its employees for, among other things, an employee's age under the Age Discrimination and Employment Act. Furthermore, it is illegal for an employer to fail to take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent discrimination and harassment from occurring. Government Code §12940 (h)(i)

40. Defendant RITE AID violated this public policy by harassing, intimidating, discriminating and retaliating against Plaintiff for Plaintiff's advanced age and further, Defendant RITE AID is liable pursuant to the Age Discrimination and Employment Act. All of the foregoing are in violation of the public policy of this State, so as to entitle Plaintiff to sue for the injuries and damages suffered by her as a result thereof.

41. As a proximate result of Defendants' bad faith harassment, intimidation, discrimination and retaliation against Plaintiff in violation of statutorily expressed public policy, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer the injuries and damages alleged above.

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### THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress Against Defendant RITE AID and DOES 1-50)

42. Plaintiff refers to and incorporates by reference herein each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 21 above.

Filed 02/27/2008

- 43. On the dates set forth above, Plaintiff became aware she was being harassed, intimidated, discriminated and retaliated against by Defendant RITE AID. The wrongful conduct was ratified and approved by Defendants.
- 44. Defendant RITE AID intentionally, and with a malicious motive, engaged in conduct that was calculated to cause Plaintiff to suffer humiliation, mental anguish and emotional distress. This conduct included harassing, intimidating, discriminating and retaliating against Plaintiff without good cause and falsely justifying such action. Defendant's conduct in confirming and ratifying the wrongful conduct of its supervisors and managers was done with the knowledge that it would cause Plaintiff severe emotional distress and hardship and with a wanton and reckless disregard of the consequences to Plaintiff.
- 45. Defendants' wrongful conduct against Plaintiff was extreme and outrageous in that at all times they knew they were harassing, intimidating, discriminating and retaliating against an employee, both prior to her wrongful termination and after, who had worked with extraordinary commitment while in the employ of Defendant. Defendant knew that such arbitrary, intentional and wrongful conduct on the part of Defendant without good cause and under false pretenses would cause Plaintiff severe emotional distress and hardship and leave her without a job, a career to which she had expended many years of service in constructing, and a means to support herself and her family.
- 46. As a proximate result of Defendants' intentional conduct, Plaintiff was injured in her health, strength and activity, sustaining substantial shock and injury to her nervous system and person. All of the injuries have caused and continue to cause Plaintiff great mental distress, pain and suffering.

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# FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress Against Defendant RITE AID and DOES 1-50)

- 47. Plaintiff refers to and incorporates by reference herein each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 21 above.
- 48. On the dates set forth above, Plaintiff became aware that she was being harassed, intimidated, discriminated and retaliated against by Defendant RITE AID. This wrongful conduct was ratified and approved by Defendant.
- 49. Defendants negligently engaged in the conduct of harassing, intimidating, discriminating and retaliating against Plaintiff without good cause and by falsely justifying such wrongful conduct even though Defendant RITE AID knew or should have known that such wrongful conduct would cause Plaintiff to suffer humiliation, mental anguish, and emotional distress.
- 50. As a proximate result of Defendants' negligent conduct, Plaintiff was injured in her health, strength and activity, sustaining substantial shock and injury to her nervous system and person. All of the injuries have caused and continue to cause Plaintiff great mental distress, pain and suffering.

# WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Ms. QUIROZ PRAYS FOR JUDGMENT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. For an award against Defendants, jointly and severally, of actual, consequential and incidental losses, including but not limited to loss of income and benefits in an amount to be shown according to proof, together with prejudgment interest pursuant to *Civil Code* §3287 and/or 3288.
- 2. For an award against Defendants, jointly and severally, of general damages in an amount to be shown according to proof.
- 3. For exemplary and punitive damages for Defendants' oppression and malice, in an amount commensurate with Defendants' ability to pay, according to proof at trial.
  - 4. For costs of suit and attorneys fees under the DFEH.

Document 1

Filed 02/27/2008

Page 18 of 45

Case 3:08-cv-00367-WMC

EXM GARCIA, STURE MOR. OF

RITE AID \*5666, GIVE PATRICIA QUIROZ

37 DAYS OFF FROM HER JOB DUE TO

FOUT INJURY AND A DOCTOR'S NOTE

STARTING APRIL 9TH. ANY QUESTIONS

PLEASE CONTACT ME 858-792-0756.

KIM A GARCIA.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO	
STREET ADDRESS: 325 S. Melrose	
MAILING ADDRESS: 325 S. Melrose	
CITY AND ZIP CODE: Vista, CA 92081	
BRANCH NAME: North County	
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (760) 806-6346	
PLAINTIFF(S) / PETITIONER(S): Patricia Quiroz	
DEFENDANT(S) / RESPONDENT(S): Rite Aid Corporation	
QUIROZ VS. RITE AID CORPORATION	
	CASE NUMBER:
NOTICE OF CASE ASSIGNMENT	37-2008-00050640-CU-WT-NC

Judge: Jacqueline M. Stern

Department: N-27

**COMPLAINT/PETITION FILED: 01/24/2008** 

# CASES ASSIGNED TO THE PROBATE DIVISION ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE CIVIL REQUIREMENTS LISTED BELOW

IT IS THE DUTY OF EACH PLAINTIFF (AND CROSS-COMPLAINANT) TO SERVE A COPY OF THIS NOTICE WITH THE COMPLAINT (AND CROSS-COMPLAINT).

ALL COUNSEL WILL BE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH SUPERIOR COURT RULES WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED AS DIVISION II, AND WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.

- TIME STANDARDS: The following timeframes apply to general civil cases and must be adhered to unless you have requested and been granted an extension of time. General civil consists of all cases except: Small claims appeals, petitions, and unlawful detainers.
- **COMPLAINTS:** Complaints must be served on all named defendants, and a CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE (SDSC CIV-345) filed within 60 days of filing. This is a mandatory document and may not be substituted by the filing of any other document.
- **DEFENDANT'S APPEARANCE:** Defendant must generally appear within 30 days of service of the complaint. (Plaintiff may stipulate to no more than a 15 day extension which must be in writing and filed with the Court.)
- **DEFAULT:** If the defendant has not generally appeared and no extension has been granted, the plaintiff must request default within 45 days of the filing of the Certificate of Service.

THE COURT ENCOURAGES YOU TO CONSIDER UTILIZING VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES TO LITIGATION, INCLUDING MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION, PRIOR TO THE CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE. MEDIATION SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE UNDER THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAMS ACT AND OTHER PROVIDERS. SEE ADR INFORMATION PACKET AND STIPULATION.

YOU MAY ALSO BE ORDERED TO PARTICIPATE IN ARBITRATION PURSUANT TO CCP 1141.10 AT THE CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE. THE FEE FOR THESE SERVICES WILL BE PAID BY THE COURT IF ALL PARTIES HAVE APPEARED IN THE CASE AND THE COURT ORDERS THE CASE TO ARBITRATION PURSUANT TO CCP 1141.10. THE CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE WILL BE CANCELLED IF YOU FILE FORM SDSC CIV-359 PRIOR TO THAT HEARING

# SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

CASE NUMBER: 37-2008-00050640-CU-WT-NC

CASE TITLE: Quiroz vs. Rite Aid Corporation

# NOTICE TO LITIGANTS/ADR INFORMATION PACKAGE

You are required to serve a copy of this Notice to Litigants/ADR Information Package and a copy of the blank Stipulation to Alternative Dispute Resolution Process (received from the Civil Business Office at the time of filing) with a copy of the Summons and Complaint on all defendants in accordance with San Diego Superior Court Rule 2.1.5, Division II and CRC Rule 201.9.

### **ADR POLICY**

It is the policy of the San Diego Superior Court to strongly support the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") in all general civil cases. The court has long recognized the value of early case management intervention and the use of alternative dispute resolution options for amenable and eligible cases. The use of ADR will be discussed at all Case Management Conferences. It is the court's expectation that litigants will utilize some form of ADR – i.e. the court's mediation or arbitration programs or other available private ADR options as a mechanism for case settlement before trial

# **ADR OPTIONS**

1) CIVIL MEDIATION PROGRAM: The San Diego Superior Court Civil Mediation Program is designed to assist parties with the early resolution of their dispute. All general civil independent calendar cases, including construction defect, complex and eminent domain cases are eligible to participant in the program. Limited civil collection cases are not eligible at this time. San Diego Superior Court Local Rule 2.31, Division II addresses this program specifically. Mediation is a non-binding process in which a trained mediator 1) facilitates communication between disputants, and 2) assists parties in reaching a mutually acceptable resolution of all or part of their dispute. In this process, the mediator carefully explores not only the relevant evidence and law, but also the parties' underlying interests, needs and priorities. The mediator is not the decision-maker and will not resolve the dispute – the parties do. Mediation is a flexible, informal and confidential process that is less stressful than a formalized trial. It can also save time and money, allow for greater client participation and allow for more flexibility in creating a resolution.

Assignment to Mediation, Cost and Timelines: Parties may stipulate to mediation at any time up to the CMC or may stipulate to mediation at the CMC. Mediator fees and expenses are split equally by the parties, unless otherwise agreed. Mediators on the court's approved panel have agreed to the court's payment schedule for county-referred mediation: \$150.00 per hour for each of the first two hours and their individual rate per hour thereafter. Parties may select any mediator, however, the court maintains a panel of court-approved mediators who have satisfied panel requirements and who must adhere to ethical standards. All court-approved mediator fees and other policies are listed in the Mediator Directory at each court location to assist parties with selection. Discovery: Parties do not need to conduct full discovery in the case before mediation is considered, utilized or referred. Attendance at Mediation: Trial counsel, parties and all persons with full authority to settle the case must personally attend the mediation, unless excused by the court for good cause.

2) JUDICIAL ARBITRATION: Judicial Arbitration is a binding or non-binding process where an arbitrator applies the law to the facts of the case and issues an award. The goal of judicial arbitration is to provide parties with an adjudication that is earlier, faster, less formal and less expensive than trial. The arbitrator's award may either become the judgment in the case if all parties accept or if no trial de novo is requested within the required time. Either party may reject the award and request a trial de novo before the assigned judge if the arbitration was non-binding. If a trial de novo is requested, the trial will usually be scheduled within a year of the filing date.

Assignment to Arbitration, Cost and Timelines: Parties may stipulate to binding or non-binding judicial arbitration or the judge may order the matter to arbitration at the case management conference, held approximately 150 days after filing, if a case is valued at under \$50,000 and is "at issue". The court maintains a panel of approved judicial arbitrators who have practiced law for a minimum of five years and who have a certain amount of trial and/or arbitration experience. In addition, if parties select an arbitrator from the court's panel, the court will pay the arbitrator's fees. Superior Court

Page 23 of 45

- 3) SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES: The goal of a settlement conference is to assist the parties in their efforts to negotiate a settlement of all or part of the dispute. Parties may, at any time, request a settlement conference before the judge assigned to their case; request another assigned judge or a pro tem to act as settlement officer; or may privately utilize the services of a retired judge. The court may also order a case to a mandatory settlement conference prior to trial before the court's assigned Settlement Conference judge.
- 4) OTHER VOLUNTARY ADR: Parties may voluntarily stipulate to private ADR options outside the court system including private binding arbitration, private early neutral evaluation or private judging at any time by completing the "Stipulation to Alternative Dispute Resolution Process" which is included in this ADR package. Parties may also utilize mediation services offered by programs that are partially funded by the county's Dispute Resolution Programs Act. These services are available at no cost or on a sliding scale based on need. For a list of approved DRPA providers, please contact the County's DRPA program office at (760) 726-4900.

ADDITIONAL ADR INFORMATION: For more information about the Civil Mediation Program, please contact the Civil Mediation Department at (619) 515-8908. For more information about the Judicial Arbitration Program, please contact the Arbitration Office at (619) 531-3818. For more information about Settlement Conferences, please contact the Independent Calendar department to which your case is assigned. Please note that staff can only discuss ADR options and cannot give legal advice.

SDSC CIV-730 (Rev 12-06)

SUBERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN DIFGO	FOR COURT USE ONLY	
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STREET ADDRESS: 325 S. Melrose		
MAILING ADDRESS: 325 S. Melrose		
CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE: Vista, CA 92081-6695		
BRANCH NAME: North County		
PLAINTIFF(S): Patricia Quiroz		
DEFENDANT/O). Dita Aid Corresponding		
DEFENDANT(S): Rite Aid Corporation		
SHORT TITLE: QUIROZ VS. RITE AID CORPORATION	CASE NUMBER:	
STIPULATION TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESO (CRC 3.221)	37-2008-00050640-CU-WT-NC	
Judge: Jacqueline M. Stern	Department: N-27	
The parties and their attorneys stipulate that the matter is at issue an resolution process. Selection of any of these options will not delay an	d the claims in this action shall be submitted to the following alternative disposes management time-lines.	ute
Court-Referred Mediation Program	Court-Ordered Nonbinding Arbitration	
Private Neutral Evaluation	Court-Ordered Binding Arbitration (Stipulated)	
Private Mini-Trial	Private Reference to General Referee	•
Private Summary Jury Trial	Private Reference to Judge	
Private Settlement Conference with Private Neutral	Private Binding Arbitration	
Other (specify):		
It is also associated the Astro following about one or orbitrator, modici	or or other neutral: (Name)	
It is also stipulated that the following shall serve as arbitrator, medial	of of other fieutral. (Name)	
Alternate: (mediation & arbitration only)		
Attendition & arbitration only)		
Date:	Date:	
Name of Plaintiff	Name of Defendant	
Signature	Signature	
Name of Plaintiff's Attorney	Name of Defendant's Attorney	
Signature	Signature -	
	ity of the parties to notify the court of any settlement pursuant to California will place this matter on a 45-day dismissal calendar.	
No new parties may be added without leave of court and all un-serve		
IT IS SO ORDERED.		
Dated: 01/24/2008	The second of th	
Dates. , U 1/24/2000	JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT	

SDSC CIV-359 (Rev 01-07)

Unless this is a collections case under rule 3.740 or a complex case, this cover sheet will be used for statistical purposes only

other parties to the action or proceeding.

	·
,	QUIROZ v. RITE AID CORPORATION SDSC Case No. 37-2008-00050640-CU-WT-NC
3	DECLARATION OF SERVICE
4	I am employed in the County of San Diego, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and
4	not a party to the within action. My business address is 843 Second Street, Suite A, Encinitas, CA 92024.
6	On January 31, 2008 I served the foregoing documents, described as:
8	SUMMONS [SUM-100]; CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET [CM-010]; COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES; NOTICE OF CASE ASSIGNMENT; ADR INFORMATION PACKAGE
9	on the parties of interest as follows:
10	Legal Department
11	Rite Aid Corporation 30 Hunter Lane
12	Camp Hill, PA 17011
13	(X) BY OVERNIGHT MAIL  VIA UPS: By delivering such document(s) to an overnight mail service
14	or an authorized courier in a sealed envelope or package designated by the express service courier addressed to the person(s) on whom it is to be served pursuant to CCP §§415.40, 1013.
15	( ) BY U.S. MAIL
16 17	() I placed a true and correct copy of said document(s) in sealed a envelope(s) addressed according to the above listed parties and deposited such envelope(s) in the mail at Encinitas, California. The envelope(s) was/were mailed with postage thereon
18	fully prepaid.
19	I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. It is deposited with U.S. postal service on that same day in the ordinary course
20	of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after date of deposit for
21	mailing in affidavit.
22	On during regular business hours, I caused the above-listed document(s)
23	to be transmitted by facsimile to the person(s) and numbers(s) listed as follows:
24	(X) STATE I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.
25	( ) FEDERAL I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this Court at whose direction the service was made.
26	at whose direction the service was made.
27	Executed on January 31, 2008 at Encinitas, California.
28	Minds D.
	Mindy Burroughs

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, state bar number, and address):	FOR COURT USE ONLY
Susan Curran SBN227886	
Curran & Curran Law	,
843 Second Street	
Suite A	
Encinitas, CA 92024	
TELEPHONE NO. (Optional): (760) 634-1229 FAX NO. (Optional): (760) 634-0729	
E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional):	
ATTORNEY FOR (Name): PATRICIA QUIROZ	,
OUR THE COURT OF OAL ITO DAILS COUNTY OF CAN DIFCO	1
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO	
HALL OF JUSTICE, 330 W. BROADWAY, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-3827	
X NORTH COUNTY DIVISION, 325 S. MELROSE DR., VISTA, CA 92083-6643	
EAST COUNTY DIVISION, 250 E. MAIN ST., EL CAJON, CA 92020-3941	
RAMONA BRANCH, 1428 MONTECITO RD., RAMONA, CA 92065-5200	·
SOUTH COUNTY DIVISION, 500 3RD AVE., CHULA VISTA, CA 91910-5649	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
PLAINTIFF(S) PATRICIA QUIROZ	'
	JUDGE: <u>Jacqueline M.Stern</u>
DEFENDANT(S) RITE AID CORPORATION	DEPT: N-27
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	CASE NUMBER
(San Diego Superior Court Rules, Division II, Rule 2.5)	37-2008-00050640-CU-WT-NC
(auto and automatical automati	

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that all defendants named in the complaint of the above-entitled case have either made a general appearance or have been properly and timely served in compliance with San Diego Superior Court Rules, Division II, Rule 2.5.

Date: February 4, 2008

Signature

SUSAN CURRAN

Typed or printed name

#### NOTES:

If service cannot be effected on all defendants within 60 days of filing the complaint, DO NOT USE THIS CERTIFICATE, but file the form CERTIFICATE OF PROGRESS (SDSC CIV-144) stating the reasons why service has not been effected on all parties and what is being done to effect service.

THE FILING OF A GENERAL APPEARANCE BY A DEFENDANT DOES NOT DISPENSE WITH THE PLAINTIFF'S OBLIGATION TO FILE THIS DOCUMENT.

Document 1

Case 3:08-cv-00367-WMC

Filed 02/27/2008

Page 29 of 45

Defendant Thrifty Payless, Inc. (erroneously sued and served herein as "Rite Aid Corporation") (hereinafter, "Defendant"), for itself and no other defendants, answers the unverified Complaint ("Complaint") of plaintiff Patricia Quiroz ("Plaintiff") as follows:

Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 431.30(d), Defendant denies generally and specifically each and every allegation in the Complaint. Defendant further denies, generally and specifically, that Plaintiff is entitled to the relief requested, or that Plaintiff has been or will be damaged in any sum, or at all, by reason of any act or omission on the part of Defendant.

# FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

1. The Complaint, and each purported cause of action contained therein, fails to state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action against Defendant.

## SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

2. Plaintiff has waived her right to assert and/or is estopped from asserting her Complaint, and each purported cause of action contained therein, by her own actions and course of conduct.

#### THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

3. The Complaint, and each purported cause of action contained therein, is barred in whole or in part by all applicable statutes of limitation, including but not limited to California Civil Procedure Code Sections 335.1, 337, 338, 339, 340, and 343,

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Document 1

Filed 02/27/2008

Page 31 of 45

Case 3:08-cv-00367<u>-W</u>MC

# EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

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8. Plaintiff's causes of action, arising under the FEHA, are barred because Plaintiff did not timely exhaust the administrative remedies as required and/or otherwise failed to comply with all the statutory prerequisites to bring suit pursuant to the FEHA. Cal. Gov't Code §§ 12900 et seq.

# NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

9. Plaintiff's causes of action, arising under the ADA and the ADEA, are barred because Plaintiff did not timely exhaust the administrative remedies as required and/or otherwise failed to comply with all the statutory prerequisites to bring suit under the ADA and the ADEA. See 29 U.S.C. § 626 et seq.; 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e-5; 12117.

## TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

10. The Complaint, and each purported cause of action contained therein, is barred in whole or in part because Defendant exercised reasonable care to prevent and correct promptly discriminatory, harassing, or retaliatory behavior, if any.

# ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

11. The Complaint, and each purported cause of action contained therein, is barred in whole or in part because Plaintiff unreasonably failed to take advantage of any preventive or corrective opportunities provided by Defendant or otherwise to avoid harm.

### TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

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12. Defendant affirmatively alleges to each and every cause of action sought to be stated in the Complaint, that the injuries and damages, if any, sustained by Plaintiff as alleged in the complaint were proximately caused by the acts, errors, omissions and/or negligence of Plaintiff herself, and not as a direct and proximate result of conduct on the part of Defendant, whether as alleged or otherwise. In the event that any judgment or recovery is had against Defendant by Plaintiff, Defendant alleges that it is entitled to a reduction of any such judgment or recovery in direct proportion to the percentage of comparative fault attributable to Plaintiff.

THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Any and all claims in the Complaint based in whole or in part upon 13. any alleged disability of Plaintiff are barred because Plaintiff's proposed accommodations are unreasonable and/or would constitute an undue hardship to Defendant.

#### FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

14. The Complaint, and each purported cause of action contained therein, is barred in whole or in part because Plaintiff consented to or welcomed the actions complained of to the extent, if any, that they occurred.

## FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

15. The Complaint, and each purported cause of action contained therein, is barred in whole or in part because Plaintiff failed to notify the appropriate management personnel of the allegedly improper conduct which forms the basis of the Complaint. 29088\_1

### SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

16. Any and all claims in the Complaint based in whole or in part upon any alleged physical or emotional injury or distress, are barred because Plaintiff's sole and exclusive remedy, if any, for such injuries is governed by the California Workers' Compensation Act and before the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board. Cal. Lab. Code §§ 3600 et seq.

# SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

17. Plaintiff is barred from recovering monetary damages to the extent that she has failed to mitigate or reasonably attempt to mitigate her damages, if any, as required by law.

## EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

18. Plaintiff is barred from recovering monetary damages, in whole or in part, by the after-acquired evidence doctrine.

#### NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

19. Plaintiff is barred from recovering monetary damages, in whole or in part, by the "avoidable consequences" doctrine.

## TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

20. Plaintiff is not entitled to recover punitive or exemplary damages because: (a) Plaintiff has failed to plead facts sufficient to support allegations of malice or 29088\_1

reckless indifference for the rights of Plaintiff or that Defendant was motivated by evil motive or intent; (b) neither Defendant nor any managerial agent of Defendant committed any alleged malicious or reckless act, authorized or ratified such an act, or had advance knowledge of the unfitness, if any, of any employee or employees who allegedly committed such an act, or employed any such employee or employees with a reckless indifference towards the rights or safety of others, and (c) an award of punitive or exemplary damages under the circumstances alleged would violate the due process clauses of the United States and California constitutions.

TWENTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

21. Plaintiff is barred from recovering punitive damages because Defendant had in place a policy to prevent discrimination, harassment, and retaliation and made good faith efforts to implement and enforce that policy.

WHEREFORE, Defendant prays for judgment as follows:

- 1. That Plaintiff take nothing by reason of her Complaint;
- That the Complaint herein be dismissed in its entirety with prejudice, 2. and that judgment be entered for Defendant and against Plaintiff;
- 3. That Defendant be awarded its reasonable costs and attorneys' fees; and

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ANSWER TO COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

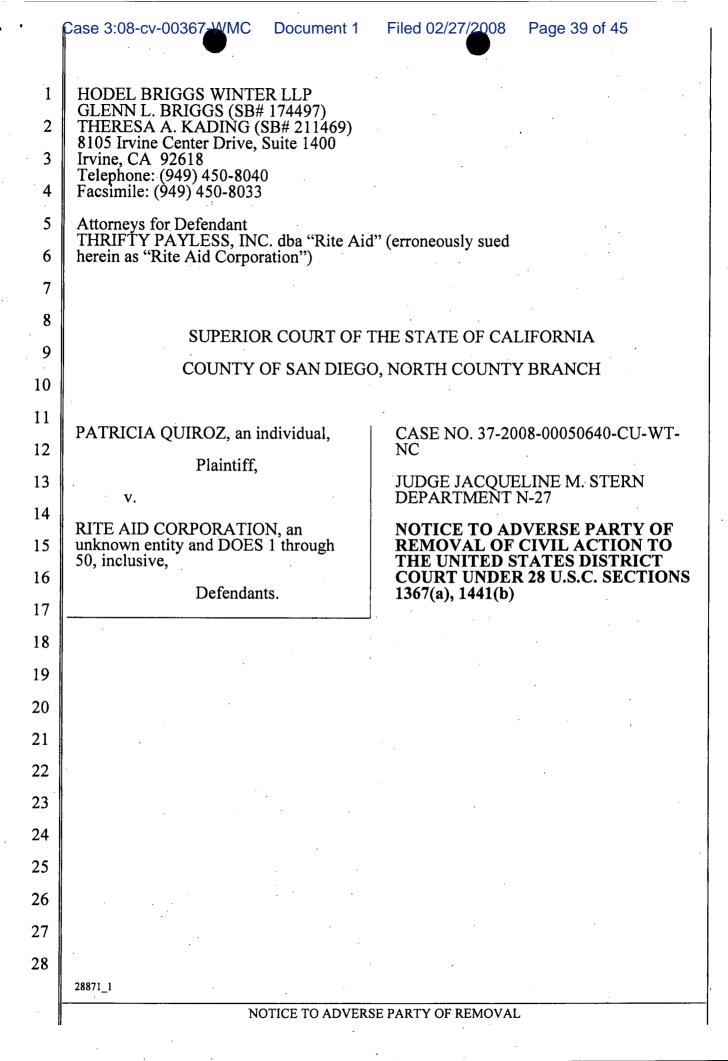
Filed 02/27/2008

Page 36 of 45

Document 1

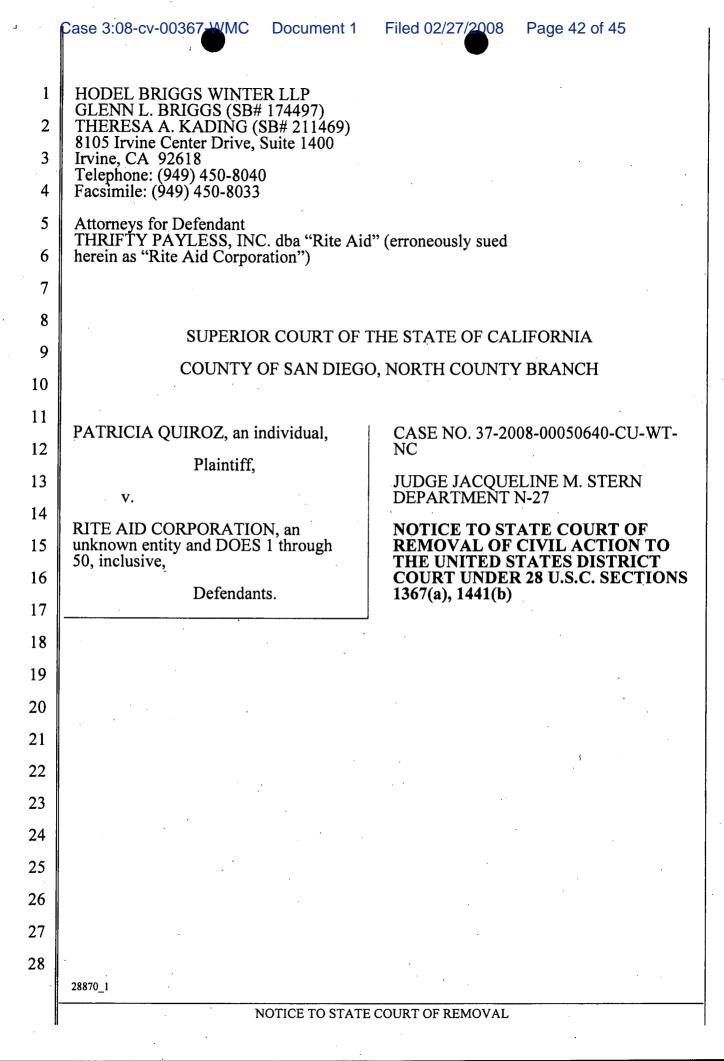
Case 3:08-cv-00367<u>-W</u>MC

1	PROOF OF SERVICE	
2	STATE OF CALIFORNIA )	
3	COUNTY OF ORANGE ) ss:	
4	I am employed in the County of Orange, State of California. I am over the age of 18, and	
5	not a party to the within action. My business address is Hodel Briggs Winter LLP, 8105 Irvine Center Drive, Suite 1400, Irvine, CA 92618.	
6	On February 26, 2008, I served the foregoing document(s) described as: ANSWER OF DEFENDANT THRIFTY PAYLESS, INC. TO PLAINTIFF'S UNVERIFIED	
7	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES on the interested parties by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope(s) addressed as follows:	
8	Susan Curran, Esq.	
9.	Curran & Curran Law 843 Second Street, Suite A	
10	Encinitas, California 92024 Telephone: (760) 634-1229	
11	Facsimile: (760) 634-0729	
12	BY MAIL: I caused such envelope, with postage thereon fully prepaid, to be placed in	
13	the United States mail at Irvine, California. I am readily familiar with the practice of Hodel Briggs Winter LLP for collection and processing correspondence for mailing.	
14'	Under that practice, it would be deposited with the United States Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at Irvine, California in the ordinary course	
15	of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.	
16 17	BY FACSIMILE: I caused said document(s) to be transmitted to a facsimile machine maintained by the office of the addressee(s) at the facsimile machine number(s)	
18	indicated. Said facsimile number(s) are the most recent numbers appearing on documents filed and served by the addressee(s). I received electronic confirmation from the facsimile machine that said document was successfully transmitted without error. A copy of said electronic confirmation is maintained in this office.	
19	BY OVERNIGHT DELIVERY: I am readily familiar with the practice of Hodel	
20	Briggs Winter LLP for the collection and processing of correspondence for overnight delivery and know that the document(s) described herein will be deposited in a box or	
21	other facility regularly maintained by for overnight delivery.	
22	STATE: I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California	
23	that the above is true and correct.  FEDERAL: I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of	
24	America that the above is true and correct and that I took said action(s) at the direction of a licensed attorney authorized to practice before this Federal Court.	
25	Executed on February 26, 2008 at Irvine California.	
26		
27	Heather Dorris	
28		



	Case 3:08-cv-00367-WMC Docu	ument 1 Filed 02/27/2008 Page 40 of 45	
. 1	TO PLAINTIEE DA	ATRICIA QUIROZ AND HER ATTORNEYS OF	
2	·	ATRICIA QUIROZ AND HER ATTORNETS OF	
•			
3			
4	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT a Notice of Removal of this action was		
5	filed in the United States District	Court for the Southern District of California on February	
6	28, 2008. A copy of said Notice of Removal and supporting exhibits are attached to this Notice, and are served and filed herewith.		
7			
8	·		
9	DATED: February 25, 2008 HODEL BRIGGS WINTER LLP		
10	211122, 1001daily <u>221,</u> 2000	GLENN L. BRIGGS THERESA A. KADING	
11		TILICESA A. KADINO	
12		By: Sheresn Rading	
13		THERESA A. KADING	
14		Attorneys for Defendant	
15		Attorneys for Defendant THRIFTY PAYLESS, INC. dba "Rite Aid" (erroneously sued herein as "Rite Aid Corporation")	
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NOTICE TO ADVERSE PARTY OF REMOVAL



1 TO THE CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, NORTH COUNTY BRANCH: 2 3 4 Attached hereto as Exhibit "1" is a true and correct copy of the Notice to 5 Adverse Party of Removal of this action to the United States District Court for the 6 Southern District of California, the original of which was filed with the United States 7 District Court for the Southern District of California with the attached exhibits on 8 February 28, 2008. 9 10 The filing of said Notice of Removal effects the removal of the above-11 entitled action from this Court. 12 13 DATED: February 15, 2008 14 15 16 17 18 Attorneys for Defendant 19 THRIFTY PAYLESS, INC. dba "Rite Aid" (erroneously sued herein as "Rite Aid Corporation") 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 28870\_1

NOTICE TO STATE COURT OF REMOVAL

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO DIVISION

# 148126 - SH \* \* C O P Y \* \* February 27, 2008 10:27:12

# Civ Fil Non-Pris

USAO #.: 08CV0367

Judge..: BARRY T MOSKOWITZ

Amount.:

\$350.00 CK

Check#.: BC57780

Total-> \$350.00

FROM: PATRICIA QUIROZ V. RITE AID CO

::ODMA\PCDOCS\WORDPERFECT\22816\1 January 24, 2000 (3:10pm)

2008

[.K

February 25

DATE

148126 \$350 Se 2127/08

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

Theresa A. Kading (SB#211469)